



August 16, 2006

Reply to the Attn: Office of Chief Counsel

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

FROM: Ken Human

SUBJECT: Blanket Approval to Attend a Pre-launch Reception Sponsored  
by Mississippi Space Services

In accordance with 5 C.F.R. 2635.204(g)(2) and (3), I make the following determination:

NASA invitees, accompanied by their spouse or a guest, may attend a pre-launch reception sponsored by Mississippi Space Services ("MSS") at the Doubletree Hotel, Cocoa Beach, Florida, Saturday, August 26, 2006, from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. This event is to be held in conjunction with the launch of STS-115 at the Kennedy Space Center.

This event will be a widely-attended gathering of approximately 150 representatives of government, the aerospace industry and the community. The reception will permit NASA employees to discuss and celebrate with other attendees their collaborative efforts in assuring a safe return to flight of the Space Shuttle. Refreshments, which will be provided by MSS, are valued at approximately \$18 per person. A cash bar will be available.

I have determined that free attendance at the above mentioned reception is in the interest of the agency because it will further agency programs and operations. The attendance of SSC employees at the event will help to raise NASA's profile with national, state, and local business and governmental leaders, will contribute to community relations, and will support NASA's objectives. Given the purpose of the event, the broad attendance anticipated, and the modest market value of this social event, I have determined that the value to the agency in having employees attend this event outweighs any concern that free attendance may or may appear to improperly influence them in the performance of their duties.

Accordingly, SSC employees that have been invited to attend may accept free attendance at the event. They may also accept invitations for accompanying spouses or guests. NASA employees whose duties may substantially affect MSS are not covered in this

determination and should seek a determination pursuant to 5 CFR 2635.204(g)(3)(i) regarding their participation in these events from their local ethics counselor.

Questions about this determination may be addressed to Marleen J. Phillips at 228-688-1587.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ken Human", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ken Human  
Chief Counsel